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## US CATTLEMEN UNLIKELY TO OPPOSE AUST. CATTLE EXPORTS VIA MEXICO

Wednesday 26 August, 1998 (2.59pm AEST)

The President of the U.S. National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Clark Willingham, says he now believes it may be economically viable for Australia to export live cattle to Mexico for onsale to feedlots in the United States.

Mr Willingham, who is currently in Australia for high level cattle industry talks, says that if Australian cattle producers comply with US import regulations, his Association will not oppose attempts to export live cattle to US feedlots via Mexico.

The comments are something of a turn-around from last week's claims by Mr Willingham's Association that applications to trans-ship Australian cattle from Mexico to the U.S. were an attempt to enter the market through the back door.

But after visting Australia this week, Clark Willingham says he now understands how the trade is possible and he wouldn't oppose it.

**CLARK WILLINGHAM:** *I can't believe that the Australian market is so poor that economically makes sense, but I'm told and the figures down here seem to be that it does make sense. I think the difference between the Australian dollar and the US dollar is certainly contributing to that, but at this point in time it seems like it may be economically feasible to do.*



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